

SUBJECT: Pole Buildings and Open-Sided Structures

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2004

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: ADM – 6.0106.1

SEE ALSO: 2003 IRC – Section R106.1

INTERPRETATION SUMMARY

This interpretation deals with requirements with regard to "pole buildings", used either as open-sided gazebos or carports or as enclosed buildings. A pole building shall be designated as any structure designed to resist seismic or wind forces through the use of posts or columns in lieu of the braced wall line requirements found in IRC section R602.10. Since these structures do not conform to the prescriptive requirements for wall construction in the IRC, each building must be designed by an engineer to verify that the posts or columns and connections will resist all local design loads as required by IRC section R301.1. We would categorize this type of construction as "special conditions" as described in IRC section R106.1 for which the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional. Therefore, though not required by State statute, it will be the requirement of this Department that permits for all such structures must be submitted with plans for the structure that have been sealed by an engineer licensed with the State of Kansas. Such drawings shall include all design load criteria for wind and snow.

For purposes of zoning certification, open-sided structures used as gazebos shall meet the requirements for accessory buildings for lot coverage and setbacks. Only one such structure shall be permitted per zoning lot. Gazebos shall be limited to 360 square feet.